

The cost of cheap stuff P.5

If a necessity was made through slave or unfair labor, would you still purchase it?

Assault on the indie scene P.6

Authorities are attacking small San Francisco music clubs that are the lifeblood of the indie scene.

Students pack luau P.2

More than 400 students attend the ninth annual Pacific Islander club’s lu’au event on Saturday.

THE WIRE

BAY AREA

Ducks oust top-seeded Sharks 4-1 in Game 6

ANAHEIM — Teemu Selanne and Francois Beauchemin scored their first playoff goals 43 seconds apart in the second period, and the eighth-seeded Anaheim Ducks ousted the Presidents’ Trophy-winning San Jose Sharks from the first round with a 4-1 victory on Monday night. Jonas Hiller made 36 saves to finish his playoff series debut for the Ducks.

— Associated Press

STATE

Judge upholds \$100M Mattel verdict over Bratz

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — A federal judge has upheld a \$100 million jury verdict for Mattel Inc. in a lengthy legal battle over rights to the Bratz doll, a rival to Mattel’s Barbie. U.S. District Judge Stephen Larson also confirmed in his ruling late Monday that the Bratz doll is Mattel property.

— Associated Press

NATIONAL

Democrats announce budget agreement

WASHINGTON - Congressional Democrats sealed an agreement Monday night on a budget plan that would help President Barack Obama overhaul the health care system but allows his signature tax cut for most workers to expire after next year. The \$3.5 trillion plan for the budget year starting Oct. 1 embraces several of Obama’s key goals besides health care reform, including funds for domestic programs and clean energy, and a tax increase for individuals making more than \$200,000 a year or couples making more than \$250,000.

— Associated Press

INTERNATIONAL

Pakistan kills 20 militants; pact in doubt

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan’s military says troops have killed 20 militants in an operation that has cast doubt on a peace pact between the government and the Taliban. An army statement said paramilitary troops killed the militants on Monday in Lower Dir, an area of the northwest that borders Afghanistan.

— Associated Press

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Taking a magic carpet ride to true ‘Beauty’

Theater group reimagines ‘Beauty and the Beast’

JESSICA FROMM
Staff Writer

Forget dancing cutlery and a Euro-centric setting. “Beauty and the Beast: The True Story,” is decidedly multicultural and un-Disney.

Set in ancient Persia, SJSU’s new stage version of this classic fairy tale emphasizes diversity. Presented by Magic Carpet Theater, the play brings together song, dance, music and acting.

“It was a children’s story and a children’s play long before Disney turned it into a big Broadway musical,” said Julie Engelbrecht, the production set designer. “Sometimes it’s good to step away from all the commercial enterprises and just tell the story.

“What I like about this is, by not framing it in western culture, we’ve made the story more worldly. Every culture has had similar stories — Romeo and Juliet and star-crossed lovers,” she said.



Jenna Cual, left, a theater major and Kevin Wulf, right, a theater and business double major, rehearse a scene from the Red Carpet Theater’s “Beauty and the Beast.”

STEFAN ARMIJO / Spartan Daily

See **THEATER**, page 6

FUNDING

Rally has students asking ‘WTF’ with budget cuts to CSU



Mike Welch, a representative for Assemblyman Joe Coto, spoke about Assembly Bill 656.

MINH PHAM / Spartan Daily

RALPH WARNER
Staff Writer

For about 50 students gathered in Campus Village Building B on Thursday evening, the “WTF?” or “Where’s the Funding?” rally, was an opportunity to discuss the effects of budget cuts at SJSU, share personal experiences and plan methods to bring about change to the higher education system in the future.

The event was organized by Students for Quality Education, a coalition of various student associations, to raise student activism against the increases to

tuition and fees in the California State University system.

Andrae Macapinlac, a senior political science major and vice president of Students for Quality Education, said one of the main purposes of the event is to campaign in opposition to Proposition 1A, which he feels could have long-term negative effects for students and professors.

“Passing Prop. 1A would make budget cuts permanent,” Macapinlac said. “That’s what we’re here to really against because these cuts really affect everyone.”

According to the California

voter guide, Proposition 1A, which is on the May 19 state-wide special election, would limit spending by increasing the size of the “rainy day” fund from 5 percent to 12.5 percent of the general fund.

Students spoke about the impact of the budget cuts, the history of budget cuts at SJSU and how SJSU would change if these cuts continue.

David Hu, a sophomore international business major, said budget cuts began to directly effect him when his best friend had to leave SJSU because of the increase of tuition.

“He was one of my best friends here in the dorms,” Hu said. “When I found out he couldn’t go here anymore, I thought of the things I could do, even as small as handing out fliers, to make a difference in keeping students like my friend here at SJSU.”

The idea of students doing what they can to be activists for higher quality education is something Julian Rosenberg, a senior political science major, said needs to be stressed during

See **WTF**, page 2

LITERATURE

Students celebrate the spoken word at Legacy of Poetry Day

MARCOS BLANCO
Staff Writer

Students and passersby at Caret Plaza outside King Library were treated to a wealth of poetry in celebration of SJSU Legacy of Poetry Day Thursday.

T.J. Flores, president of the Poets and Writers Coalition, said this was the second one they have held since it coincided with SJSU’s 150th anniversary last year.

“It’s to celebrate the spoken word and celebrate poetry,” Flores said. “It’s poetry for the sake of poetry. That’s how we like it.”

Nils Peterson, the first ever poet laureate of Santa Clara County, kicked off the event with three of his own original poems, titled “On Roberta’s Book,” “I’m Looking At An Apple,” and “Sandlots.”

Peterson, who wrote his first poem more than 50 more years ago, said the turnout for the event was good and commended the Poets and Writers Coalition.

“It’s a very interesting and energetic organization,” he said.

Students, librarians and professors read a variety of poems by many well-known poets, including past SJSU poets such as Henry Meade Blande, Edwin Markham and Sandra McPherson.

Annette Nellen, a professor from the College of Business and director of the campus reading program, said she was pleased with the event’s turnout, but was surprised that few students knew about the legacy of poetry at SJSU.

“It was puzzling to me,” Nellen said. “I was delving into the history (of SJSU’s poetry) and I thought it would be good to celebrate. Our goal is to let people know about this legacy.”

Nellen said she was fascinated that SJSU is an active center of poetry and hopes that students look forward to poetry day each year.

“I hope there is an awareness that SJSU has a long and fascinating history,” she said, “Poetry

See **POETRY**, page 2

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MULTIMEDIA

Video: Watch a video of the hundreds of participants in ‘Walk a Mile in Her Shoes,’ an event in support of sexual assault awareness.

SPORTS

Derby Fever: Sports Editor Matthew Kimel gives us his Kentucky Derby predictions and analysis.

PHOTO BLOG

Find true love watching an audio slideshow of the SJSU’s Magic Carpet Theatre’s ‘Beauty and the Beast.’

See a new photo from ‘Around Downtown.’



STEFAN ARMIJO / Spartan Daily

SPARTA GUIDE

28 Today

Finding a Job in a Down Economy

6 p.m. in the Pacifica Room of the Student Union

Student Composers Concert

With SJSU Percussion Ensemble. Free. 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. at the Music Building Concert Hall. For more information, contact Joan Stubbe at 924-4673 or jstubbe@email.sjsu.edu

Test Taking Teddy Plays To Win

Find out some hot tips that will help you pass your exams. 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in Clark Hall, Room 118. For more information, contact Veronica Mendoza at veronica.mendoza@sjsu.edu

29 Tomorrow

Associated Students Lobby Corps Letter Writing Campaign

4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the second floor conference room of Building BB.

Conflict Free Living

Find out some tools you can use to bring more peace into your relationships. 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in Clark Hall, Room 118. For more information, contact Veronica Mendoza at veronica.mendoza@sjsu.edu

EOP Honors Ceremony

A celebration of the 2009 EOP graduating seniors and honor students. 6 to 8:30 p.m. in King Library, Room 229.

Radio Debates

Topics range from CSU sustainability, to zero population growth, to legalization of marijuana and gay marriage. 7:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. on 90.5 KJSJ.

30 Thursday

Brass Concert

Featuring the trumpet studio of Kathryn Adduci. 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. at the Music Building Concert Hall. For more information, contact Joan Stubbe at 924-4673 or jstubbe@email.sjsu.edu

Farhat Ali

President and CEO of Fujitsu America gives a presentation Noon in the Engineering Building, Room 189.

01 Friday

Help Me! I Have Test Anxiety!

Noon to 1 p.m. in Clark Hall, Room 118. For more information, contact Veronica Mendoza at veronica.mendoza@sjsu.edu

07 Thursday

Harry Potter Parody Reading

Join author Valerie Estelle Frankel for a reading of "Henry Potty and the Deathly Paper Shortage: An Unauthorized Harry Potter Parody." Noon to 1:30 p.m. in King Library, Room 255. For more information, contact Valerie Frankel at valerie.frankel@sjsu.edu

Sparta Guide is provided free of charge to students, faculty and staff members. The deadline for entries is noon, three working days before the desired publication date. Space restrictions may require editing of submission. Entries are printed in the order in which they are received. Submit entries online at thespartandaily.com or in writing at DBH 209.

WTF | Faculty also spoke out against budget cuts

Continued from page 1

times when the need for student activism is dire.

"Change is not going to come to us, we have to fight for it," said Rosenberg, who is also the president of Students for Quality Education. "It's not just about us; it effects our whole state, so it's really up to us to put the state on the right path."

Students were not the only ones speaking about the need for involvement and the effects of budget cuts on the CSU system. Edward Collins, a geography lecturer, said admissions cutbacks will not only hurt those students denied acceptance but also the state's economy.

"If you cut out a little less than half of your freshman class, that's roughly 4,500 people that

are not going to be served this luxury good of higher education," Collins said. "That means that instead of being supporters of the economy, you're going to have them working more of your lower income jobs."

"I'm here because I believe that education is important for your success, to be honest, if you don't get it life can really suck."

After the open forum, students held a vigil for professors, students and staff who will not be at SJSU next semester because of budget cuts.

"There are a lot of people with a lot of money and a lot of power who want the money from these colleges to go elsewhere, and it's up to us to stand up and make a lot of noise to stop them," Rosenberg said. "Even though they have all the money, we have the numbers and it's up to students to get educated and to get involved."

POETRY | 'It's nice to see people come out and appreciate poetry'

Continued from page 1

being once aspect."

McTate Stroman II, a junior psychology major, was one of the students at the event who read a work from Blande, titled "A Song of Autumn," and an original work of his own titled "This You Have To Know," a poem about how he met his wife.

"I didn't even know this was going on," Stroman said. "I'm a poet. I thought it was a beautiful opportunity to share some of my work."

Stroman said his interest in poetry started by listening to hip-hop music.

"Poetry is a more mature avenue of hip hop," he said. "It allowed me to mature."

Flores said he was amazed by the turnout.

"It's nice to see people come out and appreciate poetry," he said. "It lets me know that poetry is still alive on our campus."

Flores said he hopes poetry



Courtesy of Poets and Writers Coalition
Poet laureate Nils Peterson

day becomes a tradition on campus and that students who went to Thursday's event got something out of it.

"I hope it opened their eyes and ears to the rich history of poetry in the Bay Area," he said. "We're always trying make a dent. To us, it is an art form and not just something you practice in class."

U.S. reaction to swine flu more muted than elsewhere

Associated Press

EL PASO, Texas — U.S. airports and border agents waved people through Monday with little or no additional screening for Mexico's deadly swine flu — a far more muted reaction than the extreme caution elsewhere around the world.

The number of confirmed U.S. cases rose to 50, most of them mild and none fatal. The government said it was shipping millions of doses of flu-fighting medicine from a federal stockpile to states along the Mexican border or where the virus has been detected.

But the American reaction to swine flu, which has killed up to 149 people in Mexico and on Monday led the World Health Organization to raise its alert level, was mostly limited to steps that hospitals, schools and mask-wearing individuals took on their own.

At the main pedestrian border crossing between El Paso and Mexico's Ciudad Juarez, a handful of people wore protective masks and officials handed out a swine flu flier provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

But there were no extra screenings for swine flu, and it mostly looked like a typical day at the border. Suddenly faced with a new and unforeseen threat, people entering the country who said they felt unwell were questioned about their symptoms. But there were no reports of anyone refused entry.

Jorge Juarez and Miranda Carnero, both 18, crossed the border wearing bright blue masks. "It's just a precaution," said Juarez, who lives in El Paso and drew a smiley face on his mask.



Pacific Island food, dance delight sell-out crowd



Members of the Pride of the Pacific Islands club perform a Hawaiian dance named the Mele Hula Pele, which honors Pele, the volcano goddess, on Saturday night for their Ninth Annual Luau, held at the Barrett Ballroom inside the Student Union. Courtesy of Mary Cheung

MINH PHAM
Staff Writer

A line stretched across the third floor of the Student Union half an hour before the doors opened for the ninth annual Pride of the Pacific Islands Luau.

The sold out show included more than 400 guests who were greeted by club members wearing colorfully patterned dresses. They adorned the incoming crowd with shell leis and then escorted them to the round tables inside the Barrett Ballroom.

"At first, they told us each member only had five tickets to sell and then all of a sudden, it doubled," said Jessica Murillo, a sophomore psychology major, who joined the club of more than 40 members this semester.

Live reggae and Hawaiian music was provided by the Island Riddim Band, with lead singer Nancy Choi doubling as the night's master of ceremonies. The band played for two hours while guests enjoyed a dinner of shredded pork, barbecue chicken and macaroni salad, provided by L&L Hawaiian Barbeque.

"The food is really good and the music is the bomb," said Brian Mendoza, a sophomore kinesiology major. "Even though it's a bit of a long wait for the show to start, the music makes up for it. The girl got vocals."

Around 6:30 p.m., Choi announced the first raffle giveaway, with prizes consisting of gift cards from Trader Joe's, Cafe Yolicious and Ben & Jerry's.

After tables were cleared by volunteers, Choi announced the

beginning of the show and began to describe the first performance, a Hawaiian dance about new beginnings that involved chanting from the dancers.

Shouting came from the stage as three men ran to the front and blew into conch shells. Solemn dancers in black, red and white costumes, with greenery around their wrists and heads, depicted the creation of the islands.

The third performance, "Mele Hula Ma'i, Tu 'Oe" ("Hurry who are erect"), about prowess and procreation, had both male and female dancers doing repeated chants of "Play with it, play with it," alluding to the act of foreplay. At one point, all the dancers begin furiously twirling their hips to represent the process of procreation.

The first hula 'auana, the most recognized traditional hula dance, had smiling female dancers decked in blue dresses and white necklaces, to tell the story of the famous mermaid, Kananaka, who lived in the sea outside of Lahaina, Maui, and mesmerized men with her loving embrace.

"The hula was my favorite," said Eric Banal, a freshman business major. "All the girls looked beautiful and the dancing was really smooth and relaxing."

After the Hawaiian dances, representatives of Tonga were next with their war dance, the "Kailao," where male dancers moved in a fierce manner to emulate fighting scenes, accompanied by shrieks from backstage, dancers and the fast-paced pounding of drums. Dancers also held red and wood stripped spheres, as the dance

displays the warrior's skill with his weapon.

The third group of island to be represented was the American Samoa, in a slap dance with bare-chested male dancers, called the Fa'ataupati, originally derived from the act of slapping insects on the body.

Cori Miller, founder of the first Pride of the Pacific Islands club, said this year's production was the most professional one yet.

"When it first started, I was the main one teaching the dances and coming up with the programs," she said. "Now, it's much more student-run, and I'm glad to see the tradition carrying on. That was a big goal of mine."

Other areas represented were New Zealand, Fiji and Tahiti.

In the last dance, all of the members came onto the stage dressed in green and white. Dancers pulled guests onto the stage to participate in the hip-shaking and had the rest of the audience clapping and cheering along.

"The show was really successful and a lot of fun," said Glenn Salonga, co-president of the club. "In my 10 years of dancing, this show is at the top for me."

Co-President Danielle Lisac, a biology and geology graduate student, said she was proud of the club's accomplishment.

"We ran into a lot of obstacles, such as the live music, since we were practicing with recorded music," she said. "We take the best things from the last show and keep improving. All our dedication paid off and I'm so proud of everybody."

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CAMPUS VOICES:

“What do you think of the campus establishing more unisex bathrooms?”


Feature and photos by SCOTT REYBURN
Staff Writer

BALDO MARQUEZ
junior, mechanical engineering




“I don’t see the reason why we need that. There is already bathrooms individually. I think there will just be more problems and more security.”

NICOLAS SANDOVAL
junior, mechanical engineering



“They are not the same. It wouldn’t work out.”

SAUL GEMBE
senior, management information systems



“Definitely we need a lot more. It would just be a lot more convenient. That way I could get back to my studies and other things I’ve got to take care of on campus. It’s the 21st century so you got to be open-minded, so what the heck.”

JAZMINE MENDOZA
sophomore, business



“I don’t like the idea, because guys tend to be a little messier than girls. Last year when I lived in the Bricks, some guys would sneak in and it was disgusting.”

JESSICA PONCE
freshman, nursing



“It’s just unsafe as far as being raped. Boys, it’s like oh whatever let’s go to the bathroom and it would probably be fun for them, but for girls it’s uncomfortable.”

ISOBEL ROBINSON
sophomore, child and adolescent development



“I think they should keep them separated. Boy and girl. Separate body parts, I guess.”

CAMPUS IMAGES



Activist and guest speaker Amir Abdul Malik from Oakland visits SJSU for Islam Awareness Week to speak on an invitation from the Muslim Students Association and promote the duty of Muslims.

KIRSTEN AGUILAR / Spartan Daily

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BASEBALL

Martin takes one for the team – to the extreme



Jason Martin has baseballs dropped on him from his teammate to illustrate his tendency to get hit by a pitch. He has been hit by a pitch 17 times this season.

RYAN BUCHAN
Sports Editor

The pitcher looks for the sign as SJSU center fielder Jason Martin stands in the batter’s box, anxious for his opportunity to try to get on base.

The pitcher winds up and delivers the ball — it’s inside, and it ricochets off Martin’s thick, black elbow pad. He goes to first and the Spartans have a man on base.

Martin, also known as Marty, always seems to be getting pegged. In his two seasons at SJSU Martin, led the team in being hit by pitch last year and is currently the leader this season.

“In Marty’s case, he has a little extra attitude when he’s up there,” said SJSU assistant coach Jeff Pritchard. “Getting hit by a pitch is a little bit of his personal game, and it helps the team in ways that we can’t even quantify it. ... Any time he is on base, any time we can get a guy on base. We feel like we can score.”

This season, Martin has been beamed 17 times, more than any other Western Athletic Conference player. He led the conference last year as well with 19.

“He has a tough mentality,” said shortstop Kyle Bellows.

“He is not going to get out of the way of any pitch. He is going to do anything he can to get on base and that is what he does for the team.”

In a game last week against Fresno Pacific, Martin twice made his way to first base after being struck by pitches.

“If they try to throw inside, I don’t move,” Martin said. “I don’t move away from the pitch, I let it hit me. It’s a good way to get on base, but it can hurt at times.”

Getting hit by pitches is not anything new for him, as he has had his fair share of getting plunked in high school while attending The Harker School in West San Jose. He said that he was beamed three times in one game for two consecutive games.

“I never thought anything of it,” Martin said, “but I guess the ball just likes to find me.”

Martin was the first player from Harker to play Division-I baseball, according to assistant athletic director Chris Collins.

“He has just done a lot for our school,” Collins said. “Now we can say we had someone in the past that played D-I. ... He put us up another notch.”

Martin said he was happy to get the opportunity to continue

to play baseball.

“Coming out of Harker, I was looking for somewhere to play,” he said. “I was really fortunate coach (Piraro) gave me a chance to play, a chance to be on the team. And I just worked hard and tried to get out on the field as much as I could.”

While at Harker, Martin was the quarterback and cornerback on the football team.

“Football might have toughened me up a bit,” he said. “Maybe it got me used to getting hit.”

Martin has achieved more for SJSU and Harker on the diamond than just getting hit by pitches.

Standing at six-feet-five-inches and weighing 165 pounds, Martin is still able to hit the long ball. He is second on the team in home runs with four.

“I think power comes from having a very high level of contact,” Pritchard said. “It is pretty simple, you have to hit the ball first to hit it out of the yard. What Marty does is, he is extremely aggressive for his size, which I think works in his benefit, because when he’s doing well, his swing is very short to the baseball. There is not a whole lot of monkey business when it comes to the swing.”

Martin’s stats

- Hit by a pitch 36 times in two seasons
- Hit by a pitch on an average of every 8.9 at-bats
- .323 batting average this season
- On base percentage of .444 last season
- Four homeruns in 2009 ranking second on the team

BLOG

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Giving America its proper due



ELISHA MALDONADO
... in love and war

Earlier this month, the president issued an apology for arrogance, dismissiveness and derisiveness to a throng of Europeans at the G-20 summit. And though it might be stale by now, I still can't let it go.

And it's not just because he apologized for an arrogance for which I am absolutely not sorry.

It is because the fountain-head for the American people demonstrated this anti-Americanism, this popular of dissing our own patria the land we belong to like children to a parent.

It is for what our patria is that he rebuked. A superpower. Powerful and superlative. For many, this is reason enough to condemn. Perfect, she is not, nor blameless. In fact, her sins are many, but at the root of it, she is still great, for asserting her power and acting in a way worthy of herself.

The point is, perhaps by conceding our greatness in presidential speeches, we're conceding it in reality, too.

Why aren't we asserting our power? Why aren't we thinking like a great nation? What characteristic do we value now as a nation instead of greatness? Servility? Cooperativeness? Weakness?

We don't care about her goodness, no. And instead of simply acknowledging her mistakes (as no doubt every-one and every nation makes), we fault her for all the ills in the world.

She is the one to blame, her people say. She is the instigator. The meddling one always in the middle where she doesn't belong.

What other country has attacked another unprovoked, I was asked? Cite another country that forces its way of life, its beliefs, on others? Which country has started the most wars? Who are we, they ask?

To answer: Americans' assertion of themselves is both just and best for ourselves. And it is just for a president to act arrogant, to put his country first, to intervene in other nations for our safety.

If we have to pick Obama as our sovereign speaking purely in terms of justice, he has an obligation to do what is right for our nation, our citizens.

The idea is that we enter into a contract with the state social contract theory for our protection. Therefore, if the state fails to protect us, the contract is no longer valid. In other words, if Obama does not put our safety before the safety of other nations, he is letting down on his end of the bargain. He has an obligation as a sovereign, in a sense, to us.

If we have to pick Obama as our sovereign speaking purely in terms of justice, he has an obligation to do what is right for our nation, our citizens. And we get higher priority than the rest of the world.

And to an extent, that is why our country intervenes. It's not like we are picking on other countries for the hell of it.

President Obama followed his apology with this: "But in Europe, there is an anti-Americanism that is at once casual, but can also be insidious. Instead of recognizing the good that America so often does in the world, there have been times where Europeans choose to blame America for much of what is bad."

But why shouldn't they be anti-U.S. if we are going to act anti-ourselves?

It's something akin to Roger Federer winning a questionable ball on the line against Rafael Nadal in a grand slam

final at Wimbledon, then apologizing for the way he pumped his fist.

Why shouldn't he exhibit his greatness to the fullest, and then be proud of it?

We should be behaving like Charles de Gaulle, who saved France from un-greatness and insisted, absolutely, that a leader must never disparage his own country on foreign soil.

Because, by doing this, he lowers our defenses, making

our enemies more bold.

They say a nation gets the politician it deserves, that politicians are a reflection of its society. Or, perhaps it is the opposite, and society is representative of its politicians.

Either way, our solidarity is weakening, as my dear Professor H says.

He, though, attributes our decline to our outsourcing of industry jobs, our dollars' dependence on Chinese currency, the like. While I won't throw any cavil in, because it is partly liable, I keep getting drawn to that something else.

As a whole, let's face it: America is no longer the industrial success she once was. But even if she were to regain it, I am not sure it would be enough to mend this decaying of morale.

I am told to consider people who deprecate America are the elites of varying sorts and neo-aristocrats are the ones acting like Europeans; that Joe the Plumber still loves his patria.

Joe? Are you there?

Elisha Maldonado is the Spartan Daily investigations editor. " ... in love and war" appears every other Tuesday.

OPINION5

Extending the right of marriage to all



SAMANTHA RIVERA
Staff Writer

The recent Miss USA scandal was actually a blessing in disguise, because the controversy of gay marriage has sparked people to talk about this important social issue again.

Sometimes it is hard to believe there is still so much ignorance in the world. It is 2009, and though some things have progressed, such as the fact that we have our first black president, there is still much else to be surpassed — specifically, recognizing homosexuals as equal human beings who should be allowed to marry.

Yesterday, same-sex couples finally got married in Iowa. I still cannot believe Californians voted to pass Proposition 8, which defines marriage as only between a man and a woman. Sure, this issue has been talked to death, but it should continue to be talked about until other states follow Iowa and further progress in this modern age.

I work with a very conservative Christian woman who strongly opposes the idea that homosexuals should be allowed to marry — surprise, surprise.

The other day, she brought up the Miss USA scandal, and began a tirade against Perez Hilton, an openly gay man in the spotlight of the controversy. My co-worker knows I consider myself liberal, and also knows where I stand on the issue of gay marriage, but still scoffed that liberals have no tolerance.

DID YOU KNOW...

The Spanish celebrate the Christian feast of Corpus Christi by jumping over babies? Traditionally, grown men dressed as the devil leap over a row of babies lying in the street.

— **Telegraph.co.uk**

Basically, her opinion about liberals is that we look down on all conservatives and bite their heads off the minute they say something we do not agree with. She said she feels liberals try to push their beliefs on everybody, and that they should just shut up, because they are being intolerant.

I looked at this woman, who was saying all of this with passionate anger, and wondered just how many other people feel this way.

Apparently, many do. Otherwise, Proposition 8 would not have passed and we could all actually be considered equal. This is a woman who prays and reads the Bible every day and yet could feel so much anger toward other people, and wishes to deny homosexuals equal rights. I think Jesus loves everybody.

I don't think liberals are intolerant of conservatives, but it's more of a frustration issue. People are allowed to have their own opinion, but it is wrong if their opinion is holding people back from allowing their love to become legal.

My co-worker says allowing gays to marry would ruin the sanctity of marriage. I think some straight people are doing that all by themselves.

I know two gay couples who have been together for many years and whose love has stood the test of time. Maybe allowing them to marry will re-establish the sanctity of marriage and the fact that marriage is an eternal commitment.

We'll never really know until we let it happen.

For now, congratulations to Iowa, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and, later this year, Vermont. You made the right choice.

Samantha Rivera is a Spartan Daily staff writer.

The real cost of buying cheap thrills



ANGELO LANHAM
Yes, I Have a Point

This column is about slave labor and umbrellas. Be patient, I'll get there. First, an anecdotal bunch of stuff leading up to the point, which I swear, is in here somewhere.

Do you remember in elementary school, when some smart-assed kid would say, "Hey, did you know your hand is bigger than your face?"

If you're an idiot, such as I was, you would respond, "Really?" and proceed to put your hand up to your face — at which the smart-assed kid would smack your hand into said face.

I had a similar experience this past weekend. It all started at Walgreens, where I was arrested by an incredible deal. A digital camera that takes, get this, up to 243* pictures (more on that asterisk later) for \$10.

No amount of package studying would reveal the size or quality of said pictures. The cardboard also mentioned the ability to record "several seconds" of AVI video.

I was skeptical about that one, but I can't tell you how often something happens when I'm on-

campus that I wish I could take a picture of it for my blog.

I know what you're thinking — just take a picture with your cell phone. Well, being a bit of a telephone troglodyte, I'm the proud owner of the very last cell-phone brick, and thus my cellular entity is barely capable of accepting phone calls.

This thumbnail machine, as I assumed it to be, seemed like a decent tool to assist my blogging, and after all, how wrong can you go for \$10?

Right next to it sat another amazing steal — an electronic, LCD device called the "Pocket Arcade: 5,000 games in one," for a meager \$6.

I had work later that day, and I typically spend my 30-minute break staring at some wall. So, 5,000 gaming options should certainly keep me busy for a few breaks.

Of course the camera, as it turns out, produces little tiles of pictures — and only 20 of them when set on the tolerable resolution (60 pictures in compressed format, for a sacrifice of quality). The 243* picture option is reserved for people who enjoy postage stamp-sized pictures with resolution circa Atari 2600.

The camera has no sight or flash, and the two-character LCD display's attempts to tell you what's going on are confounding, at best — but is conveniently sized and will fit into a pocket. I'll probably still use it for the blog.

The so-called "Pocket Arcade" turned out to be a paperweight

made up of 10 games, each with enough indistinguishable variations and speed settings to safely multiply out and arrive at the number 5,000. Each game involves moving indistinct shapes made of blocks and trying to figure out why you're moving them.

So, you get what you pay for. You cannot leave Walgreens having spent 16 spontaneous dollars and also carrying a magical mini photo machine and a pocket-sized arcade.

I felt pretty hoodwinked. I went to a cafe and started picking at pigs and blankets and cup after cup of coffee, thinking all the while about how these products were made in China.

If it weren't for all that cheap labor, how much would these items have costed? The package of the mini-camera stated "\$39.99 suggested retail value."

True, only a slobbering fool would actually pay \$40 for that thing, even if it lived up to the hype the manufacturers came up with to print on the box, but if everyone involved in the production of these items had been working under American labor laws, I probably would have thanked my lucky stars to be able to get a camera of any sort and any form of electronic amusement for less than \$200.

Not to mention that DVD players, TVs, PlayStations, and whatnot would also be available to only the moderately wealthy if they were produced here.

I was thinking about this and looking around the empty resta-

rant when I noticed a copy of the Epoch Times at my table. I'm not a big reader of Epoch, but it was there, and the headline grabbed my attention. Hell, anything mentioning umbrellas, slave labor and China all in the same sentence would catch anyone's attention.

Now, the Epoch Times is a difficult source to verify, as they don't always adhere to traditional guidelines of journalism — rules of attribution are often disregarded and objectivity is not always evident.

However, it seems to have enough credibility amongst people, who consider themselves experts, to paint — at least — the most broad-stroked, rough sketch of human rights abuses in China.

I used my attracted attention to read about how some umbrellas, particularly the Tiantang brand, are produced by way of slave labor, in order to maximize profits.

According to the article, which focused on Huang Zhijiao and her story as its primary source, Laodongyue Detention Center was converted and contracted by the Tiantang company for use as a makeshift, no-pay, forced-volunteer sweatshop. Workers are reportedly beaten and humiliated regularly.

Needless to say, these conditions are not ideal — downright shitty, matter of fact, and it's tough to argue that the sweatshops used by American companies to maximize their profits are much better. Sure, they pay an unheard-of salary of about \$0.20 an hour, but just punch "sweatshop" into Dr.

Angelo Lanham is a Spartan Daily copy editor. "Yes, I Have a Point" appears every Tuesday.

THEATER

SJSU and MLK join forces



Members of the Magic Carpet Theater company rehearse for the department of television, radio, film and theater’s production of “Beauty and the Beast.”

STEFAN ARMUJO / Spartan Daily

Continued from page 1

“All these stories show up culture to culture, and so it’s nice to see them approached from not just our perspective, necessarily. It adds a little flavor,” Engelbrecht said.

Playing until May 3 at Hal Todd Theater, “Beauty and the Beast” also diverges from the Disney format by being framed in the context of “One Thousand and One Arabian Nights.”

“We really wanted to do the show so it would have a multicultural flair to it,” said Buddy Butler, the play’s director and an SJSU theater professor.

Butler’s version of “Beauty and the Beast” aims to show the universality of children’s stories, and is based on the classic Charles Perrault story of true love and the importance of inner beauty.

“In every culture, you’ll find different versions of ‘Beauty and the Beast.’ There are a lot of versions out there, but we just kind of get hung up on the Disney version and we don’t think about it,” Butler said.

Formed last year, Magic Carpet Theater is the newest company in the SJSU department of television, radio, film and theater. A musical theater oriented for children K-12 and families, Magic Carpet Theater brings classic children’s tales to the stage with a mission that advances literature and learning.

PHOTO BLOG

Find true love online. Check out an audio slideshow on the photo blog.

“Our motto is ‘From the page to the stage,’” Butler said. “We take it off the page, and put it on the stage. So, they can appreciate it and go ‘Wow, how many other

stories out there are like this?’”

In partnership with the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library’s children’s program, the Theater does outreach into the community, performing skits at libraries and community centers throughout San Jose.

“Magic Carpet Theater has three functions, which we call the three C’s: children, community and campus,” Butler said. “The idea behind it was to bring classic children’s tales to the stage. We want to encourage the students to read, so they read the story and come see it, or see it and then read the story. What we want to do is attach people to the fact that reading can open doors for children and adults.”

“Beauty and the Beast” is the company’s second production, following last fall’s inaugural show, “Puss in Boots.” For many of the 21 SJSU students participating in the production,



Members of the Magic Carpet Theater company rehearse a dance routine for the production, “Beauty and the Beast.”

STEFAN ARMUJO / Spartan Daily

this show is their first experience performing in children’s musical theater.

“You definitely get more involved with the audience in a very friendly, inviting way,” said Jenine Giusto, who plays Scheherazade in the production. “At one point in the play we actually go out and dance with the kids, so it’s really engaging. The way that Buddy created this show, to have two worlds involved, was really unique. I think the production will be different from any other production done of ‘Beauty and the Beast.’”

Magic Carpet Theater has been working for the last six weeks to bring “Beauty and the Beast” to the stage. Butler said he made a point to prepare the cast and crew for the challenges children’s theater presents, as opposed to adult theater.

“With composing music and delivering songs for youth, we definitely have to keep in mind that they have a limited attention span,” said Donny Reynolds, musical director for the show. “We have to make sure the music is catchy, that it doesn’t drag and that it hits. We also have to make sure that when the music is conveyed, that it really comes across genuinely, because kids are very intuitive. They pick it up, they know if you’re being real or not.”

Steve Shumway, faculty lighting designer for “Beauty and the Beast,” said that he geared his approach to the set’s lighting to be appropriate for younger audiences.

“The most important thing with this show is being sure the children can see the faces of people,” he said. “You’re looking to be able to light the action up, light the actors, so they can see it very clearly.”

In the end, Butler said that he hopes “Beauty and the Beast”

helps children gain an appreciation for literature and live performances.

“What I hope the audience, and especially young people, take away from this is the beauty of seeing live theater,” he said. “I hope they take away the fact that there is something magical about stories when they come to life. The bottom-line goal is to make them really go back and appreciate learning through literacy and learning the magic of books.”

Magic Carpet Theater’s production of “Beauty and the Beast” plays through May 3 at SJSU’s Hal Todd Theater. Tickets are available on Ticketmaster, at the SJSU Event Center and at the door. They are \$5 for children 16 and under, \$10 for students and seniors and \$15 for general admission.

COMMENTARY: LOCAL MUSIC

The ABC should stop hating on the live music scene

DAVID ZUGNOINI
Senior Staff Writer

No review this week, folks. I’ve got bigger things on my mind in regards to local music.

San Francisco’s lively and historic music scene may be in a bit of trouble, with the California Department of Alcohol Beverage Control recently threatening to force a few of the city’s most loved venues out of business.

Great American Music Hall, Slim’s, Bottom of the Hill and Café Du Nord are facing court action from the department, “ABC” for short, for violations to alcohol licenses and various other charges, according to the San Francisco Chronicle.

In short, the claim is that the venues make the bulk of their money on alcohol, while it is the food sales that legally justify all-ages and 18-and-over events.

Venue owners argue that their businesses have been operating like this for years — 38 years for Great American Music Hall, 18 years for Bottom of the Hill — without any legal issues, violence or complaints from neighbors. Some say the rules have never been enforced before, while others claim ABC is creating rules that didn’t previously exist.

Readers posting comments on SFGate.com stated that the actions are a needless waste of taxpayers’ money. My message to ABC is a big fat “Lighten up.”

Like it or not, for good or bad, alcohol is thoroughly embraced by our society. It’s consumed in plenty of places where children are present: sporting events, family parties, festivals, county fairs, etc. Among regular people and throughout the media,

But for some reason, when you combine alcohol with a form of art that happens to be loud, there’s a problem.

alcohol is hardly talked about in a hushed tone.

But for some reason, when you combine alcohol with a form of art that happens to be loud, there’s a problem.

There are numerous shows every single night in San Francisco and around the Bay Area, and you don’t hear of any incidents happening outside of live music venues, do you?

Meanwhile, Bay Area bars, nightclubs and sporting events have had their share of violent incidents, including a death outside of AT&T Park last May, that are apparently small potatoes compared with a few 18-year-olds catching a whiff of someone’s drink while focused on their favorite band.

Venue owners claim their businesses have good reputations among their neighborhoods, but one online comment implied that this isn’t the case.

Another big fat “Lighten up” goes out to any neighbors who share this thought.

You moved into an area full of nightlife; the nightlife didn’t suddenly move into your backyard. Go shack up in one of San Francisco’s quieter areas.

In related news from the San Francisco Examiner, San Francisco’s DNA Lounge has been dealing with a similar threat from ABC since February for having hosted erotic-themed events for gay and lesbian patrons that included brief flashes of nudity and dancing that

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